

Sales Staff Honored by Realty Firm

Members of the sales staff of Taft Allen, Inc., Realtors, were feted at a luncheon Monday to celebrate \$20 million in sales by the organization during 1963.

George Hanback, manager of the Torrance office, said the firm was founded with one office in 1952, and has since grown into an organization with five offices, each endeavoring "to maintain the original concept of honor, confidence, service, and cooperation in dealing with the public and fellow realtors."

The company, with offices at 20125 Hawthorne Ave., in Torrance, is headed by Taft Allen, president, and Kurt Schulze, vice president. Ray Straeter is secretary.

The company has opened its own escrow office at Crenshaw Boulevard and 109th Street and plans to open a special income department soon, Hanback reported.



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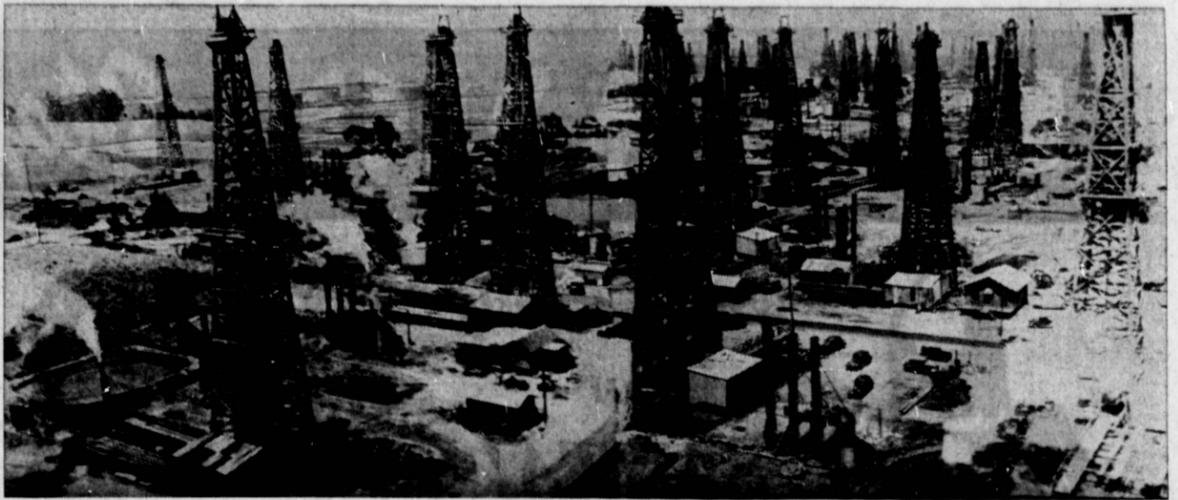
Foundation Establishes Loan Funds

A new loan fund designed to encourage the creation of architectural sculpture has been established by the Long Beach State College Foundation.

The foundation, an auxiliary organization of Long Beach State College, will establish a fund to make individual loans up to \$1,500 for materials for student projects which have been approved by the art department.

The foundation aid program is designed to help students with talent, but insufficient funds for materials, to create large sculptural works.

After completion of a project, the student may exhibit it for a period of three years. During that time, the foundation will have an option to purchase the work at a jointly determined price. If the option is not exercised, the student may reclaim the work by repaying the amount of the loan. Loans will bear no interest.



THE DAYS GONE BY . . . The huge oil derricks once dotted the southern and western sections of Torrance, and at the heights of the oil boom in the mid-1920's, activity like this was going on all over the city. But the great wooden and steel giants are no more, for the last of the derricks was

pulled down last month. A few wells remain, but the 900-barrel-a-day gusher is no more. Instead, few Torrance wells average more than five barrels a day now. (Torrance Herald Photo)

A Legend Now

Last Oil Derrick in City Falls to Earth

Chalk it up to progress! Or call it fate!

Whatever you choose to call it, the legend of the Torrance Oil Field is all but a memory.

The end of an era in Torrance history showed up on the pages of the city records last month as the last of the famous — and sometime infamous — oil derricks toppled to the ground.

The last steel tower used to pump oil from the sand below the surface of the city was pulled down. It fell the same

way the last wooden derrick fell two years ago. Few miss it, except perhaps those few who made their fortunes from the black gold which was pumped from the ground.

The first well was drilled in the city in 1921, and it gushed forth with better than 900 barrels a day. That last derrick — located in the 2300 block of West 235th Street, was pumping but five barrels a day when it crumbled to the earth.

Few wells remain in the city today. Of those that do, rare is the one which pumps more than five barrels a day. They dot the tracts and parking lots throughout south and west Torrance, fenced to keep playing children from the dangers of the pumps.

City Councilmen ordered remaining wells fenced in 1955, and in 1951 an ordinance demanded the removal of all wooden towers. When the last wooden derrick fell on Pennsylvania Avenue in 1961, there remained but four steel derricks.

Now even they are gone, and the great days of Torrance oil are gone, too. But the mem-

ories of the early '20s, when oil was among the chief products of the city, linger still.

Today there remain but a few wells, and even they are slowly being abandoned and capped. The ever moving pumps, rusty tanks, and a few oil sumps are all that are left. They are being cleaned up and the day isn't too far off when they, too, will be gone from the landscape.

Everyone can see the result of the oil boom—the wealth that made a small village a large city is everywhere—but the unsightly and yet beautiful wells remain only in the mind's eye.

Realtors Get Dollars for Right Answer

Norm Woest, community relations director of Title Insurance and Trust Co., presented a "Silver Dollar Quiz" during yesterday's luncheon meeting of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors.

Program Chairman Fred Hansen presided as Woest awarded silver dollars to those who could answer correctly questions he posed about practical problems relating to real estate procedure and on general subjects.

Al Capp Visits

Al Capp, satirist and creator of Dogpatch USA, brought his drawing humor to seminars, forums, lectures and teas at Long Beach State College the first of the week. Most of the events during the three-day visit were designed to feature informal question and answer sessions.



TOURNAMENT TIPS . . . Smiley Quick, former winner of the Gardena Valley Open, gives some pointers to Bill Johnston of Torrance, president of the sponsoring Gardena Kiwanis Club during running of the 10th annual tournament last weekend. Joe Kirkwood Jr. staged a brilliant finish Monday to win the event, his first victory in a decade on the tournament circuit. (Herald Photo)

Sherryn Mullins In Orthopaedic Hospital in LA

Sherryn Mullins, 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Mullins of 22727 Delford Ave., has been admitted as a patient at the Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital.

Torrance is just one of the many communities which sends its handicapped youngsters to the Orthopaedic Hospital. No boy or girl is turned away who needs orthopaedic care, regardless of financial circumstances.

The hospital is supported through such sources as the United Way drives.

Carson Area Drive to Know Libraries Begins

Carson Library. He is directing the campaign in order to acquaint residents with the library system.

"County library service is one of the best bargains that a citizen can obtain from government and I believe that each person should take advantage of all the vast resources," said Calas.

Last year, youth groups distributed more than 5,000 booklets on the libraries which Calas had printed. Some 8,200 leaflets have been printed this year, according to Calas.

A campaign is now under way in the Carson area to inform residents of the services and facilities of the three branch libraries in the area.

The campaign, co-sponsored by the Carson Chamber of Commerce, is being directed by John D. Calas, a prominent area civic leader and businessman. Calas first conceived the idea last year, and enlisted the aid of youth groups in distributing booklets on the county library.

Little leaguers, boy scouts, and members of other youth groups will distribute small brochures about the county library services and give each resident a short "pop talk" on the library.

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